

# Learning to innovate : agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship : the case of Songhai farmers in Benin

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# Learning to Innovate

## Agricultural Innovation & Entrepreneurship

### The case of Songhaï Farmers in Benin

*Daniel Nougbeignon Dalohoun*

#### STELLINGEN (STATEMENTS)

1. As it is written (in John 3:32) *"...And you will know the truth and the truth will make you free"*; it is only our knowledge, the use of this knowledge and the subsequent outcomes that can empower us.
2. There is nothing called poverty one can find and reduce. Instead, there are only people who lack appropriate knowledge enabling them to advance themselves, their undertakings and their societies.
3. Economic growth and development of a country requires everyone's commitment for life improvement depends on people themselves having the right mix of skills (the combination of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours).
4. Leaving all the knowledge required for successful creation and development, diffusion and application of new agricultural and related knowledge to researchers and extension agents, and expecting farmers to benefit from the results, is an illusory and unproductive institutional setting.
5. Farmers' participation in research and extension activities does not make them automatically into innovators. Listening to farmers or giving them a voice does not enable them to gain new knowledge and apply it to their undertakings.
6. Trained farmers make good innovators.
7. Farmers' entrepreneurial dynamics revitalise interactions within the national agricultural innovation system (NAIS) and contribute to strengthening linkages.
8. I had to make sure that "the development compass" the Dutch gave me is not that old one without needle or the most advanced one with needle but that does not work under the tropics. There, its magnetic pointer (needle) shows the *"magnetic south"*.
9. You worry about money and status in this society? To empower yourself, claim to empower *"the poorest of the poor"* and create your own **Non-Growth Organisation** and enter the most flourishing business: Development Aid Industry!